

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A power generation system for supplying power to an external load, comprising:

(a) a fuel cell characterized by operating parameters that are controllable to control output power provided by the fuel cell;

(b) a switch coupled to an output of the fuel cell;

(c) an energy storage device coupled to the output of the switch; and

(d) a controller coupled to the fuel cell and switch, wherein the operating parameters and switch are controllable to control the output power provided from the fuel cell to the energy storage device; and

(e) an internal auxiliary load, wherein the energy storage device is configured to provide power to the internal auxiliary load without said power being provided through a power conditioner that is also providing external load power.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the energy storage device is a battery and wherein the system further comprises ~~comprising~~ a power conditioner coupled to the output of a the battery.

4. (Original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the energy storage device is a battery.

5. (Original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the energy storage device is a capacitor.

6. (Original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the fuel cell operating

parameters include temperature.

7. (Original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the fuel cell operating parameters include air flow.

8. (Original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the fuel cell operating parameters include fuel concentration.

9. (Original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the fuel cell operating parameters include air pressure.

10. (Original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the fuel cell operating parameters include fuel pressure.

11. (Currently Amended): A system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a power conditioner having an input coupled to the switch and an output for providing power to the load, ~~wherein the power conditioner comprises an inverter.~~

12. (Currently Amended): A system as recited in claim 411, wherein the power conditioner comprises a dc-to-dc converter.

13. (Original): A system as recited in claim 4, wherein the maximum output voltage of the fuel cell when the fuel cell can produce a non-negligible amount of power is near or below the nominal battery voltage.

Claims 14-25 (Canceled).

26. (Currently Amended): A power conversion system for supplying power to an external load, comprising:

- (a) a fuel cell characterized by operating parameters that are controllable to control output power provided by the fuel cell;
- (b) a switch directly coupled to an output of the fuel cell;
- (c) an energy storage device coupled to an output of the switch ~~the load~~;

~~wherein the energy storage device is configured to provide power to the internal auxiliary load without said power being provided through the power conditioner; and~~

(d) a controller coupled to the fuel cell and switch, wherein in response to changes in the external load, the fuel cell's operating parameters and the switch are controllable are controlled to control the output power provided from the fuel cell to the external load, and wherein the switch is controlled to control the power provided from the fuel cell to the energy storage device.

27. (Original): A system as recited in claim 26, further comprising a power conditioner comprising an input coupled to the switch and an output for providing power to the load.

28. (Original): A system as recited in claim 27, further comprising an internal auxiliary load, wherein the voltage at the input to the power conditioner is held nearly constant by the energy storage device, and wherein the energy storage device is configured to provide power to the internal auxiliary load without said power being provided through the power conditioner.

29. (Original): A system as recited in claim 26, wherein the energy storage device is a battery.

30. (Original): A system as recited in claim 26, wherein the energy storage device is a capacitor.

31. (Original): A system as recited in claim 26, wherein the fuel cell operating parameters include temperature.

32. (Original): A system as recited in claim 26, wherein the fuel cell operating parameters include air flow.

33. (Original): A system as recited in claim 26, wherein the fuel cell operating parameters include fuel concentration.

34. (Original): A system as recited in claim 26, wherein the fuel cell operating parameters include air pressure.

35. (Original): A system as recited in claim 26, wherein the fuel cell operating parameters include fuel pressure.

36. (Original): A system as recited in claim 27, wherein the power conditioner comprises an inverter.

37. (Original): A system as recited in claim 27, wherein the power conditioner comprises a dc-to-dc converter.

38. (Original): A system as recited in claim 26, wherein the maximum output voltage of the fuel cell when the fuel cell can produce a non-negligible amount of power is near or below the nominal voltage of the energy storage device.

39 (New): A system as recited in claim 26, wherein if the external load significantly decreases, the operating conditions of the fuel cell are adjusted to decrease the power from the fuel cell and the switch is opened until the power from the fuel cell matches the decreased external load.

40. (New): A system as recited in claim 26, wherein if the external load suddenly increases, the energy storage device provides power to meet the increase and the operating conditions of the fuel cell are adjusted to provide more power from the fuel cell.

41. (New) A system as recited in claim 26, wherein the operating parameters are selected from the group consisting of: temperature, air flow, fuel concentration, air pressure and fuel pressure and combinations of the foregoing.